



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 5392

Takeki SHIRAI et al.

Art Unit: 3682

Application No.: 10/090,734

Examiner: Hannon, Thomas R.

Filed: March 6, 2002

Attorney Dkt. No.: 027905-00002

For: BALL CHAIN

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

February 13, 2006

Sir:

Prior to examination of the Request for Continued Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 6.

Remarks begin on page 9.